

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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72

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8736

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 5437

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BE

SUBJECT: DEATH OF MINISTER OF STATE, VISCOUNT PAUL VAN ZEELAND

1. MINISTER OF STATE, VISCOUNT PAUL VAN ZEELAND, TWICE
BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER (1935-1939) AND FOREIGN
MINISTER IN FOUR GOVERNMENTS (1949-1956), DIED SEPT. 22.
HE LEAD THE CATHOLIC/LIBERAL/SOCIALIST COALITION THAT DECISIVELY
TURNED BACK BELGIUM'S FASCIST MOVEMENT BEFORE WWII AND,
AS FOREIGN MINISTER, HELPED LEAD BELGIUM INTO NATO IN 1949.
HE RETIRED FROM POLITICAL LIFE IN 1956 BUT CONTINUED TO
PROMOTE US-BELGIAN AND US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS AS PRESIDENT
OF THE ATLANTIC INSTITUTE, PRESIDENT OF THE BELGO-AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION, AND THROUGH HIS LINKS WITH AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES
AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

2. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND FROM THE SECRETARY TO
PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE
WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE. I HAVE SENT CONDOLEANCES TO HIS
OLDEST SON, THE NEW VISCOUNT VAN ZEELAND.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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